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MALLING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

for

1942.

By the

Medical Officer of Health

(Dr. N. HAY BOLTON)

and

Senior Sanitary Inspector

(Mr. S. L. BUNDY).

COUNCIL OFFICES,
WEST MALLING.

To the Chairman and Members of the Malling R.D.C.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my ninth Annual Report on the health of the area for the year ended 31st December, 1942. The report as for the previous year is confined to essential matters only, in accordance with the directions of the Ministry.

The vital statistics continue to remain satisfactory. During the year there were 596 births yielding a birth rate of 19.05 per 1,000 population as compared with 15.8 for England and Wales. I would point out that this is an increase of 5.13 per 1,000 over the figure for 1941. The death rate of 11.57 per 1,000 population compares favourably with the figure of 11.6 for England and Wales.

Eight hundred and twelve cases of infectious disease were notified during the year by medical practitioners. Of these approximately 77 per cent related to whooping cough and measles. No serious outbreak of infectious disease occurred during the year.

SECTION A.

Area of the District (in acres)	45,650
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	31,290
Number of inhabited houses (end 1942) according to rate books - computed	9,465
Rateable Value	£189,144
Sum represented by a penny rate	£755

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Legitimate	562	279	283
Illegitimate	34	12	22
Total Live Births	596	291	305
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			19.05

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Legitimate	19	12	7
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			30.89

<u>Deaths</u>	
Total	362
Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population	11.57

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.
Other maternal causes	Nil.
Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births	Nil.

Death rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	.	.	.	.	52.01
Legitimate infants per 1,000	.	.	.	.
Legitimate live births	.	.	.	.	44.48
Illegitimate infants per 1,000	.	.	.	.
Illegitimate live births	.	.	.	.	176.47
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	.	.	.	.	49
" " measles " "	.	.	.	.	Nil
" " whooping cough (all ages)	.	.	.	.	1
" " Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	.	.	.	.	6

SECTION B.

Public Health Staff. The staff remains the same as recorded in my report for the year 1938.

(a) Laboratory Facilities. These are unchanged. I would say that the arrangements are adequate.

(b) Ambulance Facilities. No changes have been made in these services and they remain substantially the same as recorded in previous reports.

(c) Nursing in the Home. The various village Nursing Associations continued to do excellent work throughout the year. In spite of difficulties due to present conditions progress has been maintained and their work was very much appreciated.

The arrangement for the treatment of infectious disease remain unchanged.

The following table is inserted for comparison purposes with the death and notification rates for England and Wales. It will be seen that the comparison is favourable:-

	<u>England and Wales.</u>	<u>Malling R.D.</u>
Rates per 1,000 population (civilian).		
<u>Deaths:-</u>		
All causes	11.6	11.57
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00
Para-Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever.	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.03
Diphtheria	0.05	0.00
Influenza	0.09	0.09
Smallpox	-	-
Measles	0.01	0.00
<u>Notifications:-</u>		
Typhoid	0.01	0.00
Para-Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.14	0.03
Scarlet Fever.	2.19	2.71
Whooping Cough	1.73	6.13
Diphtheria	1.05	1.59
Erysipelas	0.30	0.19
Smallpox	0.00	0.00
Measles	7.46	13.90
Pneumonia.	1.07	1.21

Tuberculosis - Respiratory.

Twenty-six deaths registered as due to tuberculosis of the respiratory system as compared with fifteen for the previous year. The death rate was .83 per 1,000 population.

Tuberculosis - Non-respiratory.

Three deaths in males were registered as due to non-respiratory tuberculosis yielding a death rate of .09 per 1,000 population.

The following table sets out in age groups the new cases recorded in the register together with such deaths as occurred:-

<u>Age Periods.</u>	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-respiratory.</u>		<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-respiratory</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
5 -15	-	3	3	2	-	1	-	-
15- 25	5	10	-	-	-	3	-	-
25 -35	4	4	2	2	3	1	1	-
35 -45	2	4	2	1	2	1	-	-
45 -55	1	3	1	1	7	2	1	-
55 -65	-	-	1	-	2	2	-	-
65 upwards	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Totals -	12	24	10	6	16	10	3	-

The table set out below shows the number of deaths from all causes during the year:-

<u>No.</u>	<u>Cause.</u>	<u>Number.</u>	
		<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
2	Cerebro-spinal fever	1	0
4	Whooping cough	1	0
6	Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	16	10
7	Other forms of tuberculosis. . . .	3	0
8	Syphilitic diseases	1	0
9	Influenza	1	2
13	Cancer of the buc: cav: vesoph: (M) Uterus; (F)	4	5
14	Cancer of the stomach and duodenum .	6	4
15	Cancer of breast	0	5
16	Cancer of all other sites	18	7
17	Diabetes	1	2
18	Intra cranial vascular lesions . .	19	24
19	Heart disease	48	53
20	Other diseases of circ. system . .	2	3
21	Bronchitis	8	5
22	Pneumonia	9	3
23	Other respiratory diseases	3	2
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum . .	3	0
25	Diarrhoea, under two years	5	1
26	Appendicitis	1	1
27	Other digestive diseases	5	5
28	Nephritis	2	4
31	Premature birth	4	4
32	Con: mal: birth inj: etc. . . .	5	2
33	Suicide	3	1
34	Road traffic accidents	6	3
35	Other violent causes	4	4
36	All other causes	20	13
Totals :-		<u>199</u>	<u>163</u>

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued interest and support throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

N. Hay Bolton.

Medical Officer of Health.

21st June, 1943.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

WEST MALLING.

To the Chairman and Members of the Malling R.D.C.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following details of the Sanitary circumstances of the area together with the details of the work carried out by my Department for the year ended 31st December, 1942.

Following the procedure of previous years, the report is confined to the more essential branches of the work.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No important alterations or extensions have been carried out during the year under review. At Snodland part of the sewer at May Street was reconstructed and minor repairs were executed to several manholes. The sewers in this parish are very old and in certain localities it is necessary for the sewers to be flushed at regular intervals. In spite of this throughout the year a great deal of time has been spent on clearing blockages, etc.

Trouble of only a minor nature was experienced with the electrically controlled pumps. The pumps at Swan Street, West Malling, and at Aylesford, however, were a constant worry. Spares are difficult to obtain and it is necessary to use them very carefully.

SECTION C.

As in previous years the arrangements made with the Kent County Council for the bacteriological examination of the mains supply have been continued. It is satisfactory to note that no unfavourable reports were received. In addition, samples were submitted by the Mid Kent Water Company for bacteriological and chemical examination. All the samples were reported to be

of good quality and bacteriologically pure. Eight samples of well and spring water were submitted for examination, all of which were reported to be of good quality and suitable for drinking purposes.

No cases of illness suspected to be caused by water were brought to my notice during the year.

Rivers and Streams. It has not been found possible to carry out any effective surveys in connection with the pollution of rivers and streams. Informal action was taken in one case, against an owner, for allowing the discharge of untreated sewage into a stream.

Public Cleansing.

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

No important changes have been made in the method of collection or disposal during the year. As from the 1st January, the scavenging of Wouldham was taken over by the Council. A weekly collection was instituted and has been carried out.

In view of the importance of salvage as part of the war effort no pains were spared to encourage householders to contribute as much as possible. I would like to express my keen appreciation to all the voluntary helpers and in particular to the Salvage Stewards. In this area 168 were enrolled and without their assistance it would have been impossible to have consistently maintained such a satisfactory record. The Women's Voluntary Service, the Women's Institutes, and Boy Scouts have also rendered valuable assistance.

The Salvage Officer (Mr.A.J.Weller) has made a point of addressing the meetings of these organisations at frequent intervals and by his keenness and enthusiasm impressed upon them the importance of the work.

In July a salvage drive was held, and the amount of salvage collected proved it a big success.

For comparative purposes the following figures show the amount of salvage collected during the past two years, and the increase which has taken place during the year under review:-

1941	-	350 tons.
1942	-	670 tons.

(b) Cesspool Emptying.

As in the previous year the two emptiers have been kept busy. Cesspools in a part of the parish of Aylesford and in the parish of East Peckham are a big problem by reason of the frequent emptyings required to keep the premises in anything like a decent condition. This of course, entails extra work and in the case of East Peckham extra mileage, particularly in view of the fact that no suitable tip exists in this Parish.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

During the year 2,461 inspections were carried out in connection with the work of the Department and the following detailed statement shows nuisances and defects remedied:-

Overcrowding	13	Dampness remedied in dwellings	102
Hop Pickers Camps	9	Roofs and rain water pipes repaired	127
Sanitary accommodation:			
1. Where insufficient	17	Floors relaid where rough and faulty	11
2. Where defective	56	Walls and ceilings repaired	59
Drainage:		Windows and ventilation altered to comply with requirements	21
1. Reconstructed	31	Baths, Lavatory Basins, sinks and Sanitary Fittings repaired or provided where absent	20
2. Repaired	72	Water Supplies:	
3. Cleansed	436	(a) New supplies provided	7
Cesspools:		(b) Precautions for preventing contamination of existing supplies	24
1. Repaired	91	Miscellaneous defects remedied	155
Offensive Accumulations removed	25		
Refuse receptacles provided or renewed	312		
Tents, vans and sheds infringing rectified	24		
Smoke Nuisances abated	--		
Yard paving made good	17		
Keeping of animals	2		

The Shops Acts, 1912-1936.

During the year under review three complaints were received as to insufficient sanitary accommodation being provided. Informal action only was necessary to remedy these defects. It has not been found possible to carry out any routine inspections under the above.

Camping Sites. There were no sites in the area which were used for camping. No licenses were issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Smoke Abatement. Investigations were carried out into complaints regarding the discharge of dust and smoke from chimneys of industrial premises. In view of the fact that the question is rather involved and that the subject is still being dealt with, I am of the opinion that it would be best to leave the matter and report fully at a later date.

Eradication of the Bed Bug. Nineteen houses, five of which were owned by the Council, were disinfested during the year. As in previous years the same method of spraying with an insecticide was adopted. In one case only was it found necessary to re-spray. In the other instances this method proved effective.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919. Many inspections were carried out under the above and assistance was given as to the methods of rat proofing premises. No serious cases of rat infestation were brought to my notice.

SECTION D.

Housing. Routine inspections were carried out under the Housing Act, and in consequence of informal action twenty-seven houses were rendered fit. No formal notices were served under the Act.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply. One hundred and twenty two inspections of farms and dairies within the area were carried out. In spite of labour difficulties, I am pleased to be able to report that a good standard of cleanliness has been maintained and only minor defects were noted in the course of these inspections.

No cases of illness attributed to milk were brought to my notice.

Nine samples of non-designated milk were submitted for tubercle bacilli examination.

The Milk (Special) Designations Order, 1926 and 1938. Nineteen producers were registered under the above. During the year seventy-seven samples were submitted for examination. Of these six per cent failed to satisfy the methylene blue test. Repeat samples were taken in these cases and with one exception satisfactory results were obtained.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

The following food was condemned as unfit during the year:-

36 lbs.	luncheon meat.	70 lbs.	smoked codling.
16½ "	sausage meat.	40 "	winkles.
6 "	corned beef.	70 "	smoked haddock.
18 "	chopped ham.	70 "	codfish.
12 tins	pork.	9 tins	salmon.
119½ lbs.	bacon.	3 "	pilchards.
12 "	ham.	65 lbs.	cheese.
22 "	mutton.	24½ "	butter.
2 "	canned rabbit.	6 tins	soup.
70	meat pies.	4 bottles	sauce.
2080	fruit pies.	3 tins	peas.
60	tins milk.	10 lbs.	apples.
11 "	plums.	5 tins	carrots.

(c) Adulteration, etc.

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures (Mr. W.E.Allen) for the following details of the work carried out by sampling officers within the area:-

<u>Article.</u>	<u>No. of Samples.</u>
Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine	2
Aspirin	1
Baking Powder	2
Basilican Ointment	1
Barley, Patent	1
Batter Mix	1
Beef and Vegetable Extract	1
Beefin	1
Boracic Ointment	1
Butter	5
Camphorated Oil	2
Cake Flour	1
Castor Oil	3
Coffee	2
Coffee with Chicory	1
Cocoa	5
Cornflour	2
Custard Powder	4
Demerara Sugar	1
Flour	1
Goat's Milk	1
Ground Rice	1
Household Machine Skimmed Milk	1
Lard	4
Lemon Sponge Mixture	1
Lemonade	1
Margarine	3
Meat Extract	1
Mustard	1
New Meat	1
New Milk	88
Olive Oil	1
Pea Flour	1
Pearl Barley	1
Pepper	5
Pork Luncheon Meat	1
Pudding Mixture	1
Rice	1
Salmon and Shrimp Paste	1
Salmon Spread	1
Spice	1
Split Peas	1
Sugar	1
Sucron, Sugore (Sugar Substitutes)	2
Tea	1
Tincture of Iodine	2
Vinegar	1
Zinc Ointment	1

Total 164

All samples genuine with the exception of the undermentioned:-

New Milk.	Contained 7.3% added water.	Defendant fined £3 and £1.1.0 costs.
"	"	"
"	"	"
"	8.9%	"
"	"	"
"	17.0%	"
"	"	"
"	30.3%	"
"	"	"
"	21.1%	"
"	"	"
"	10.6% deficient in fat.	"
"	"	"
"	14.0%	"
"	"	"
"	13.3%	"
"	"	"

Defendant fined £5 and £2.2.0 costs.

No action. Followed up by:-

Defendant fined £1.)

Defendant fined £1.)

Cautioned by Clerk of County

-do- Council.

-do-

4 New Milks - Genuine, but inferior.

Hop Picking.

Hop picking commenced the last week in August and continued the full season. The general health of the pickers was good. No cases of infectious disease were notified. A number of inspections of the huts were carried out both before and during occupation. Defects were remedied without the necessity of formal action.

I would like to express to the Chairman and Members of the Council my sincere thanks for the assistance and encouragement they have rendered to me at all times throughout the year.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Stephen L. Bundy,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

21st June, 1943.